California GARDEN

FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR **WINTER 1957** VOLUME 48 NO. 4

Christmas

Everywhere—everywhere, Christmas tonight!
Christmas in lands of the Fir tree and Pine,
Christmas in lands of the Palm tree and Vine,
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where corn fields lie sunny and bright,
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight.

—Phillips Brooks

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stems July to September. Other members of this family are agapanthus, clivia, crinum and nerine.

An attactive summer bloomer, with clusters of deep blue or white flowers, is *Agapanthus africanus,* Lily of the Nile. The common name is somewhat inappropriate as it is not a lily and is not from the Nile! The lush, strap-like foliage is evergreen and attractive the whole year.

Clivia miniata, Kafir Lily, is an exceedingly decorative evergreen plant with large reddish-orange, lily-like flowers borne in clusters on stiff stalks. The lustrous dark green, strap-like leaves are handsome, but only so in shade as the leaves burn in the sun.

A large, very fragrant, summer blooming bulb useful for bold masses is *Crinum moorei,* Cape Lily.

The nerines, perhaps not as well known here as some of our other bulbs, bear brilliant masses of crimson, orange or scarlet bloom in late fall. The spidery, glittering flowers, with a brilliance due to a gold-dusted sheen, appear before the foliage. The lily family is represented by *Ornithogalum thyrsoides* and kniphofia, of which there are many species and hybrids. Among the better known of the Cape flowers is the South African Ornithogalum or Chinkerinchee, cousin to our Star of Bethlehem. Because the cut flowers will last for weeks, large quantities have been exported, some to America. It is an interesting custom in South Africa to send boxes of the "Chinks" to England for Christmas.

Kniphofias, commonly called Torchlilies or Redhotpokers, are appropriate for planting around pools or in wild places. With their tall spikes of red, yellow or cream, they are valuable summer accents which combine well with agapanthus.

To complete this listing of bulbous plants is the Callalily, or Zantedeschia, with inconspicuous flowers but showy bracts, of white, pink or golden. In South Africa they fill hundreds of moist valleys and cluster along roadsides by the hundreds of thousands.

In addition to her many bulbs, South Africa has a vast number of "daisy-flowers", members of the very large and widespread composite family.

Of all the daisies which grow in South Africa, the arctotis is surely one of the most attractive, and is valuable as a cut flower. The flowers of *Arctotis grandis* have centers of steel blue with ray flowers white on the upper surface and lilac blue beneath.

Blue Marguerite, or felicia, is a low shrubby, and somewhat scrubby, plant valued for its sky-blue, yellow-centered flowers. Felicias bloom summer, fall and often into winter.

Many of the South African daisies must have the sun to open. This is true of the Capemarigold, or Dimorphotheca, annual or perennial, bearing orange, yellow, purple, blue or white daisies. Flowers of the shrubby *D. ecklonis* are white above, purplish beneath.

Gazanias are known to most of us as dazzlingly brilliant ground covers, especially in parkings and along walks, and like the dimorphothecas, they are dependent on the sun for their glory. There are many shades among the orange and yellow varieties; there are also white and creamy gazanias, and claret, purple and scarlet varieties. Many beautiful ones have probably not yet come to California.

Of all the compositae, possibly none can equal *Gerbera jamesoni,*

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Flameray Gerbera, also called Transvaal Daisy. Following the development of variously colored hybrids, the gerbera has become tremendously popular as a florist's cut flower. Beautiful 4" daisies on 18" stems rise from a gray-green rosette of foliage from May to December. Gerberas are very particular about good drainage, and dislike water around the crown.

There are about sixty species of ursinia in South Africa but only a few are available to us. Although ursinias have much in common with dimorphothecas, they keep their flowers open even after the sun has left them.

Venidiums, Namaqualand-daisies, are annuals allied to the arctotis, and their large daisies are as dazzingly brilliant as any already mentioned.

Another daisy, a charming one not commonly found, is *Charieis heterophylla,* sometimes listed as Kaulfussia. This one is an annual, 6 to 12 inches high, with ray flowers of gentian blue and centers of dark blue or yellow.

With this group of daisies, I must include Shrub Aster, *Aster fructicosus,* a spring-flowering, evergreen shrub to two to three feet. The daisy flowers are lavender with a yellow center, covering the shrub in April through June.

In South Africa, succulents grow in such abundance and in such variety that I cannot hope to do them justice in a few paragraphs. The aloes and mesembryanthemums, of which there are countless varieties, are well known to us. South Africa has made strange and interesting contributions to our rock gardens with her Stone Plants or Living Rocks and her Windowed Plants.

Aloes, members of the lily family, somewhat resemble the agaves of America. Their showy spikes of yellow, orange and reddish flowers are produced during the winter months.

The mesembryanthemums, or Figmarigolds, include an enormous number of species and an infinite number of forms. We are all familiar with the brilliantly flowered "iceplants" which clothe so many of our banks. Not so well known, except to succulent collectors, but truly fascinating, are the Stone Plants and Windowed Plants. The Stone Plants, including lithops and argyroderma in variety, are nearly always found among stones of their own color. Growing in stone-like shapes, they are very difficult to find until they bloom, their huge, daisy-like flowers then nearly covering the tiny plants. The Windowed Plants in their native home grow underground with only translucent flat tops of leaves lying on the surface to let in light. In our gardens they must have more than their tops out of the ground to keep them from rotting. Even under our driest conditions our atmosphere is damper than their desert home.

These "Windows" include among others, lithops and fenestrarias, and they too have their big handsome flowers above ground.

Another succulent for the rock garden is Haworthia, with sixty species in South Africa of which we grow a few.

Stapelia, or Carrionflower, is popular with succulent growers because of its interesting shape and unique, handsome bloom. The star-like flowers are usually yellow, crimson or purple with many varieties of spots, lines or marks, but unfortunately, have such a disagreeable smell that the common name is well deserved.

South Africa has given us a number of decorative and unusual trees, including one of the coral trees, *Erythrina caffra.* A good tropical accent, it is rapid growing to 25 ft. and as wide, with scarlet flowers.

The Kafir Plum, *Harpephyllum caffrum* is not as well known as it should be. Fast growing, with leathery glossy leaves, small white flowers and dark red fruits, it has a well-groomed appearance.

A beautiful evergreen tree with rather pendulous branches, *Podocarpus elongata,* Fern Pine, is valuable for patio or lawn. The supple branches can also be easily espaliered against a wall. A medium sized tree here, perhaps because we have none yet of great age, it grows in the native forests to an immense size and its timber is used for furniture making.

Another beautiful African forest tree is the Cape Chestnut, *Calodendrum capense.* It is an evergreen tree with glossy foliage and in summer a profusion of rosy lilac bloom. A most striking and unusual tree is *Leucadendron argenteum,* Silver Tree, named for the silky, silvery-white leaves which give the tree a metallic sheen. We are rarely able to give the Silver Tree the conditions it demands in order to thrive; in fact, it seems that it's a temperamental subject even in South African gardens.

Several shrubby vines are worthy of mention. *Tecoma capensis,* Cape Honeysuckle, is familiar to most of us, with its cane-like stems, glistening green leaflets and brilliant, orange-red tubular blossoms in fall and winter.

Another half vine - half shrub from Cape Province is *Plumbago capensis.* In South Africa its light blue flowers are splashed along the roadsides. A sprawling shrub, it combines well with Cape Honeysuckle.

Bauhinia Galpini, Red Bauhinia, is a semi-climber which needs some support. Handsome against a warm wall, it bears clusters of orange-red flowers through the summer.

The list of shrubs which have come to us from South Africa is such a long one that I won't try to mention more than a few. No other country can compare with

South Africa in the number and beauty of heaths. Several hundred varieties grow wild there. Because they are not easy to grow, only a few have found their way into our gardens, among them *Erica melanthera, E. hirtiflora* and *E. subdivarieata.*

A small heath-like shrub from South African hillsides is *Diosma ericoides,* Buchu or Breath of Heaven. It has dark, needle-like, aromatic foliage and masses of tiny, white flowers in summer.

Carissa grandiflora, Natal Plum, is a very ornamental shrub for our gardens, handsome the year around. Most of the year the glossy, rich green foliage is sprinkled with starry-white flowers and ruby plums.

South Africa has also given us *Gardenia thunbergia,* tall and open growing with large, fragrant white flowers.

One of my favorites is *Grewia caffra,* Lavender Starflower. A rapid growing, sprawling but neat shrub, it is easily trained as an espalier. The starry, lavender-blue flowers come pretty much over the year.

Then there is Honeybush, *Melianthus major,* a bold-patterned foliage shrub with blue-ray-green leaves and chocolate brown flowers, useful for tropical plantings.

The list of herbaceous plants from South African region is also a long one and includes two of our best known annuals, nemesia and lobelia.

Also included is a tropical herb of the banana family, *Strelitzia reginae,* with showy flowers of exotic form. Known as Bird-of-Paradise Flower, its wonderful bird-like blossoms of blue and orange are quite unlike anything else in the flower world. Several varieties of streptocarpus, Cape Primrose, are from South Africa.

The Cape Primrose is a close relative of the saintpaulia or African Violet, which is native to East Africa.

The Black-eyed Clock Vine, *Thunbergia alata,* is a low, perennial vine, the flowers orange or yellow with jet-black centers.

Because it's such a part of the Southern California scene, I have purposely saved the geranium for last. Actually, most of the plants we call geraniums belong to the genus Pelargonium, and most of the members come from South Africa, where they grow profusely. *Pelargonium inquinans,* a parent of most of the garden geraniums, was introduced into England as early as 1714. From 1850 on, California has grown many varieties.

Due to the similarity of climate, a good many of our California natives have found their way into African gardens, plants such as *Romneya coulteri, Penstemon heterophyllus* and the Monterey Pine. I wonder if South African gardeners, eyeing the Californians in their gardens, ever try to visualize the land from which they came?

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

Thinking of gifts, and who isn't? Here are some new garden books of real interest.

PLANT PROPAGATION IN PICTURES, by Montague Free. *Doubleday. $4.95*

BOTANY FOR GARDENERS, by Harold W. Rickett. *Macmillan. $4.50*

TROPICAL PLANTS AND THEIR CULTIVATION, by L. Bruggerman. *Crowell 292 Color plates. $12.00*

A FLORA OF THE MARSHES OF CALIFORNIA, by H. L. Mason. *University of California. $10.00*

SOIL; THE YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE, by U. S. Dept. of Agr. *Govt. Printing Office. $2.25*

GARDENING: A NEW WORLD FOR CHILDREN, by Sally Wright. *Macmillan. $2.75*

PLANT DOCTORING IS FUN, by Cynthia Westcott. *Van Nostrand. $4.50*

NATIVE PLANTS FOR CALIFORNIA GARDENS, by Lee W. Lenz. *Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. $3.85*

THE CULTIVATION OF SUCCULENTS, by H. Jacobsen, *De Graff. $2.50*

TREE CARE, by John M. Haller. *Macmillan. $5.95*

AFRICAN VIOLETS, GLOXINIAS AND THEIR RELATIVES, by Harold E. Moore. *Macmillan. $10.00*

GARDENS OF JAPAN, by Tetauro Yoshida. *Prager. $12.50*

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Interest In Macadamias Increases

Dorothy S. Behrends

The recent field trip arranged by the California Macadamia Society to inspect producing macadamia plantings in northern San Diego County, proved to be most interesting.

The group visited the Schneider Orchard in Carlsbad, where Col. Wells Miller has applied his experiences in this field to revitalizing the grove, with University of California horticulturists who are interested in macadamias, acting as advisors.

The two hundred trees, planted seven years ago, have suffered from a four-year neglect, due to the illnesses of successive owners. The trees are tenacious, and none died, but just living, and producing a creditable crop, are two different things. Although some of the trees have been taken out of production temporarily, by top-working them to better varieties, each year the crop has doubled.

The husking process was demonstrated by using a machine imported from the Hawaiian Islands. Husking and shelling were formerly discouraging factors in harvesting macadamias. This has been pretty well solved. As soon as nuts of a uniform size are harvested in quantity, there will be no difficulty. The machines operating in the Islands are now cracking and shelling the nuts at the rate of one thousand pounds per hour.

At the Nelson Westree Macadamia Nursery, propagation by grafting, and the rooting of cuttings, was demonstrated. Mr. Westree is testing over thirty-five seedling macadamias, not only to observe the growth of the trees in Carlsbad, but also to compare the yield, size and kernel qualities of the nuts, with a predetermined scale.

Dr. W. B. Story, formerly Associate Horticulturist of the University of Hawaii, was in attendance on this tour. He is credited by his co-workers as having been the most helpful in making macadamia culture the economic success it is in Hawaii. He is now giving the same diligent thought, help and study to this new industry in Southern California. We are most fortunate in having this well-informed man as consultant and advisor.

In the Bachman orchard in Leucadia, the named trees, planted only three years ago, were viewed. The preference for single trunk trees, rather than multiple, was noted. The single trunks are sturdier and better able to hold up under strong winds, or a heavy crop.

The Burdick Macadamia is a seedling tree in Leucadia that was allowed to mature and found to be "of exceptional quality". After a thorough scrutiny, the experts have decided that the nuts of this special tree have the largest kernels and the finest meats of any macadamia anywhere —to date. That includes over eighty thousand cultivated trees in Hawaii. This variety will be distributed through the nurseries specializing in macadamias, after enough graft wood is available.

This takes skill, patience and time, especially time.

All the trees in the Lush Orchard, planted seven years ago on shallow Rancho Santa Fe soil, are seedlings. The handsome trees and fine production of nuts attest that the grove has been beautifully attended. Although the soil is shallow, it has been enriched to give the trees their requirements, and two inch pipes, well anchored in the ground, provide support against the wind. Plantings in the Hawaiian Islands are also in shallow soil. The winds reach a high velocity there, uprooting the trees and exposing their network of roots. The trees are righted, anchored, covered and watered, and seemingly continue to grow, none the worse for wear.

The Barnes' macadamias in Rancho Santa Fe are utilized both as crops and as decorative subjects. The macadamia makes a very good "lawn tree" because all of the leaves do not fall each year, leaving a clutter and extra work for the home owner. The leaves stay on the trees from three to five years, before dropping. Like so many crop trees, the macadamia usually begins to bear when about seven years old. It reaches maturity at fifteen years, and should yield an average of one hundred and fifty pounds a year. Although the nuts retail for three and a half to four dollars a pound, shelled, the unshelled nuts bring fifty cents a pound at the grower's door.

Macadamias may be pruned to assume the shape desired by the grower. Give the trees the same treatment as avocados: no killing frosts, plenty of sunshine, liberal amounts of water, good drainage, a balanced fertilizer, with a good supply of phosphate and potash included in the planting hole at the time of setting out.

Growers with pioneering spirit are planting acreage to the macadamias, while many agricultural men say, "It is the coming tree crop for California." Others are shaking their heads, as years ago many did when avocados were first planted in Carlsbad.

Camellia Japonica Culture

E. W. Miller

There is no longer any mystery regarding the successful growing of camellias. There are many species and varieties but all will respond in much the same manner as will the commonly known Camellia Japonica, about which this is written. Given the right location, the right kind of soil, and an intelligent watering and fertilizing program, this "Aristocrat of the Garden" will respond in a manner which will delight all true flower lovers. Recommendations found herein are general and satisfactorily followed in all growing areas.

In selecting a location, pick a spot which is in at least semi-shade. Early morning sun is beneficial, so the east or north side of the house is good. If the background is light, the plant may have to be protected from the reflected sun while it is small. If plant is to be grown in a lath house, location presents no problem.

The right type of soil is very important. Good drainage is an absolute necessity. If the soil is heavy, dig a hole and place rocks or gravel in the bottom. Build up the soil mix using a good sandy loam, peat moss, and oak leaf mold in equal parts. Fill the hole and firm it so that the plant will not immediately settle. Keep the plant a little high so that the water will drain away from the trunk. Container growing can be done very easily. Have plenty of holes in the bottom of the container and use the same soil mix.

Transplanting will be most successful when the plant is dormant — usually from November through February is a good time. Avoid injury to the roots. If the ball is hard soften it with water and loosen a bit so that the roots can get into the new soil. After transplanting, water thoroughly but do not feed. There will be enough food in the new soil to carry the plant for as long as a year.

Good watering practice will keep the soil moist without water-logging. The feeder roots must be kept cool and moist and inasmuch as they are found in the top part of the soil, don't let the top dry out. In hot, dry areas, a mulch of peat or other materials may be used. Don't be afraid to sprinkle the foliage—camellias love it. It washes the leaves and helps keep up the humidity. Of course, if the blooms are open, water will spot them, so care should be taken not to water over-head. If the water contains a high salt content, water a little less often but water heavily. This will help leach the salts. The use of acidifiers may be beneficial. Sulphur is a common one.

Fertilizing is usually started right after the blooming season. An acid food may be purchased at any good nursery but should be used sparingly — about half as much and half as often as recommended. Organic foods are good and one of the oldest but safest—cottonseed meal — will produce good healthy growth and good flowers. A teaspoonful of the meal for a gallon-can plant and a tablespoon for a five-gallon can plant is usually sufficient. Plants in the ground and of greater size may be fed more generously. Do not dig the food into the soil—let the water carry it into the root area. Suggested feedings are April, June and August.

Pests are few. In the spring, when the new growth appears, aphids will be found. Good control of ants, and the use of a contact spray will be effective. Occasionally the small loopers or measuring worms will appear but they may be controlled by a stomach poison spray. Watch for scale when you buy a plant—if it is infested spray with Volck light oil or some other type.

Pruning may be done to shape or thicken a plant. Because the camellia is slow growing and never reaches the great size of some of the other shrubs, use discretion when cutting flowers. Leave at least one eye of the current year's growth, so that blooms will be produced next year.

Camellias are hardy and will survive temperatures to twenty degrees or a little lower. Sub-freezing temperatures may not result in plant damage but blooms will suffer. They like high temperatures in the summer and cool nights in the winter. Moisture control is necessary, however.

In selecting plants, it is a very good practice to see the flower before buying — don't buy just names. Good nurserymen will help you make a selection of good healthy plants. Membership in a Camellia Society near you is an invaluable aid in getting acquainted with nice people, as well as with fine camellia varieties.

Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park

Ralph S. Roberts

Chairman of the Park

Will Miss Kate O. Sessions' fond dream of a community park in the North Shores area finally come true?

It has a good start. On November 8th., the one hundredth anniversary of her birth, the Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park, on Soledad Road in Pacific Beach, was dedicated with an impressive and appropriate ceremony.

The story behind this park goes back to the year 1918, when Miss Sessions bought land on the south slope of Mt. Soledad, where she built her home. She then conceived the idea that about eighty acres nearby should be set aside by the city for a community park. In the mid-thirties she presented her project to the Pacific Beach C. of C. and requested assistance in the confirmation and development of her plan. After lengthy negotiations, the people of Pacific Beach were granted permission to develop the southwest corner of Pueblo Lot 1785, an area of about one acre, where Lamont St. becomes Soledad Road.

The community rallied to Miss Sessions' call and worked valiently to clear the ground and plant the flowering shrubs to create what she called her "Color Park". Later the Girl Scouts built a fireplace and the Color Park was used by family and organization groups until the rush of war days, which brought neglect and deterioration.

In 1948, the east half of the Pueblo Lot was finally set aside by the city authorities and designated as Soledad Terrace Park.

However, nothing was done towards its development, and about a year and a half ago it was rumored that a "deal" was pending which would transfer the land to private interests for a residential subdivision. Quickly a campaign was organized to save the park.

Led by the Pacific Beach Coordinating Council, representing all the organizations in the community, eighty-six groups in the area held meetings and circulated petitions that were sent to the City Officials, along with hundreds of letters. Help and advice came from Mr. Calland and Mr. Perry, of the Park Dept., and from Mrs. J. J. Kenneally and her officers of the San Diego Floral Association, but in the final analysis, it was the women of the Pacific Beach Women's Club, the Pacific Beach Juniors, the Pacific Beach Garden Club and the City Beautiful Association, who carried on the strenuous work necessary to bring the project to its present status, with the Coordinating Council and other civic groups lending their aid.

Finally, by councilmanic action, the name of the park was changed to Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park, and, in the city budget recently adopted, funds were allocated over a six-year period to complete the landscaping, planting and necessary building.

Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park will be a place befitting the great woman horticulturist whose name it bears. It will be a quiet park—a place of peace and beauty—a place for family relaxation. Here will be found the colorful native trees, shrubs and flowers which Miss Sessions loved so well and many others which she introduced from foreign lands. We who observed her untiring efforts to make San Diego beautiful, are happy today that the city to which she contributed so much is honoring her memory, in a manner she would have preferred above all others.

The following lists of varieties are suggested as satisfactory to coastal areas as well as inland areas. They contain but a few of the thousands available among the Camellia Japonicas. There are also the vine-like Sasanquas and the Reticulatas, famous for huge blooms.

OLD CAMELLIA JAPONICAS

Adolphe Audusson, Flame, Elegans (Chandleri), Debutante, Herme, Glen No. 40, Frizzle White, Emperor of Russia, Purity, Arajishi, Mrs. Tingley, Alba Plena.

NEW CAMELLIA JAPONICAS

Tomorrow, R. L. Wheeler, Drama Girl, Sunset Glory, Mathotiana Supreme, Melody Lane, Reg Ragland, Richard Nixon, Guilio Nuccio, Guest of Honor, Maureen Connolly, Helen K.

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How About Azaleas?

Stanley and Alice Miller
El Cajon

Yes, we *can* grow azaleas in San Diego County. Perhaps you have been told that azaleas are not for this area. Perhaps you have attempted to place a potted gift azalea in your garden, after it had flowered indoors, with poor results. Perhaps the water situation makes you dubious. The fact remains that many amateur gardeners have grown azaleas here successfully for more than ten years. The following ideas on culture have been gained from local experience.

Plant azaleas where they will receive sunshine during the bud-setting period in summer. Give filtered light or real shade when in flower, usually in late winter and early spring, so the blooms will not burn or fade. The plants themselves are very sun-tolerant, as long as their roots are moist and cool.

Azaleas are acid-lovers. Their masses of shallow fibrous roots require moist humus for best growth. We use a combination of moist aged shaving and damp peat, to retain the moisture, plus some sand, to provide drainage and also to give faster absorption if the plant dries out. If this happens, when peat alone is used, it can not soak up water fast enough to save the azalea. Repot or move azaleas only when in bloom.

When azaleas are ailing, it is usually due to lack of soil acidity, which is indicated by yellowing of the leaves or by burning along the edges. A good acid mulch should prevent this unhealthy leaf chlorosis. See that alkaline soil does not wash in over the humus. Sometimes single branches, or even the whole plant, may start to wilt and die back—called rhodendron wilt. A quick application of aluminum sulphate may restore the pH of the soil. If it fails, lift the plant, wash off the roots, replant in the proper mixture, in a better location, and the azalea will usually survive. Watch the crown of the plant. Do not let it sink below the original level in the pot.

Fertilize with cottonseed meal or castorbean pomace. An occasional light dose of aluminum sulphate or sulphur helps to maintain acidity. Feed in the spring, after flowering, when new growth begins, and again in mid-summer. Because cottonseed meal is slow-acting, try another light application in the fall. If this causes new leaves to develop, it should be discontinued.

Overhead watering, by hand or sprinklers, is satisfactory because much moisture is absorbed by the foliage. Red spiders can be reduced by frequent and thorough spraying with plain water.

Foliage that becomes reddish-brown indicates red spider (red mites). If a red stain is left on the thumb and forefinger, when a leaf is drawn gently between them, you may be sure of this pest, or it may show as tiny red specks on white paper, when a branch is tapped over it. It is prevalent in dry weather. When leaves are silvery on the under sides and speckled on the tops, look for thrips. For a light infestation use Black Leaf 40 or D.D.T. or a dusting mixture of 5 parts dusting sulphur, 1 part powdered arsenate of lead and 4 parts nicotine sulphate dust. This last is also good for red mites or chewing insects. Leaf eaters can be controlled by a careful and prompt spraying with 1 oz. (2 tbsp.) arsenate of lead to 2 gal. of water.

Pruning decides the size, shape and floriferousness of azaleas. Tender new growth can be pinched back for shaping, but it limits bud setting. Sunshine tends to increase the budding. Prune right after blooming, to shape the plant and produce the all-over flowering so much desired. Those who like to use branches for arrangements should do their cutting when the leafy clusters are in bloom. Some azaleas can be induced to cascade, others are fine for hedges. A circular drive in a Hollywood garden, bordered with a single variety of mauve-shaded azaleas, was breath-taking in its loveliness.

In landscape work, color selection is important, as clashes may prove disastrous. Consider growth habit, as some azaleas are tall and rangy, while others are compact and naturally low. In general, the Kurume types have small single or semi-double flowers that come on when the plant is almost bare, followed by lovely masses of small light-green leaves. Some flowers are fragrant. The Indicas, and their many improved hybrids,

Gerard and Sands

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Make Mine Plants and Flowers

Despite the gay artificial glitter-flitters we use during the holidays, the real Christmas feeling only creeps in as the pungent scent of pine, the smoky incense of an open fire, and the colorful plant decorations fill the house.

Various hollies, (including the native Toyon), cotoneasters, natal-plums, nandinas, pyracanthus, acubas, and even the vining *Solanum seaforthianum,* offer a wealth of handsome foliage and berries. The flickering lines of pine needles among the bumpy brown cones studding most of the conifer branches, the glimpse of waxy sprays of mistletoe, the glorious blast of red color wherever poinsettias appear, the serene beauty of ruby-toned camellias, so harmonious in leaf and flower form, fluffy azaleas, or african violets with snowy white blooms, all bespeak the festive season.

What *would* Christmas be without these radiant treasures from garden and hillside, florist and nursery? Actually, a present of a living plant makes all other gifts seem a bit on the tawdry side. For real pleasure, bestow plant and flower gifts for the garden and home, along with containers to hold them, and books to study their needs. A.M.C.

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have larger, darker green leaves that are more persistant. The flowers are larger and are borne in bigger clusters.

Some named varieties that we have found successful are: Apple Blossom, Christmas Cheer, Coral Bells, Hexe, Pink Pearl, Pride of Dorking, *Vervaenana alba,* Violacea, Snowflake, Paul Schame, Albert and Elizabeth and Songbird.

A little care in selecting, the best possible care in locating and planting, and reasonable care in maintaining, will surely reward you with azaleas whose lavish displays few other plants can equal.

A Book In The Hand

Ada McLouth

LIBERTY HYDE BAILEY: AN INFORMAL BIOGRAPHY, by Philip Dorf. *Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y., $3.50.*

This giving season is the time to assess, in wonderment, the great gifts to horticulture and to nature study made by this author, educator, tireless traveller, and researcher.

Bailey's long life provided a link with the great names of the past, since as a young man he worked as assistant to Asa Gray, whose textbook had inspired and determined the direction of his career. He was later to edit and revise Gray's *Botany.*

Recognized as an inspired teacher, Bailey occupied the first chair in horticulture and landscape gardening ever to be established in this country, at what is now Michigan State University, where he graduated. From there he took charge of the department of practical and experimental horticulture at Cornell. This developed into the College of Agriculture, and it is to his credit that Cornell became preeminent in this field.

When he retired from academic work, at 55, Bailey's energy and achievements had won new buildings and increased funds for pioneer colleges of agriculture in both Michigan and New York. He was chairman of the commission whose report brought about agricultural extension services in all the states.

He next devoted himself to research and writing in his chosen field and measured up another full lifetime of work in the more than 65 books he produced. His massive works, known to all botanists and horticulturists, are: *Hortus* (1930), and its revised and enlarged edition (1941); *Cyclopedia of American Horticulture* (1900-1902) in four volumes, reissued in three volumes (1922); *Gentes Herbarum,* seven volumes, (1920-1949).

Among books, valuable and choice for the everyday gardener, are: *Garden of Pinks* (1938) reflecting an early boyhood interest in the pinks raised by his mother in a forest clearing in Michigan, where the Bailey farm was; *Garden of Larkspurs* (1939); *Garden of Gourds* (1937) and *Garden of Bellflowers* (1953). Such studies recount his work in his own gar-

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Deck the House With African Violets

J. O. Davis

Luxuriant in foliage and easy to grow, the continuously colorful blossoms of the African Violets brighten more homes than any other houseplant, because they thrive under dry, warm indoor conditions. After twelve years of commercial growing in San Diego, I have worked out these simple rules for their care.

Grow violets in a draft-free situation, temperature around 70 degrees, near a window with plenty of light. Filter direct sunlight or the leaves will burn. A dark location limits flowering and elongates the leaf stems.

Soil should drain well. "Spongrok" and peat moss added to available compost insure porosity. "Black Magic" is one of several good potting mixtures.

Apply warm water, under the leaves, at the top of the pot. Cold water will spot the foliage. Keep soil consistently moist, but not continually wet. Frequency is governed by room temperature. Avoid overwatering. Never let water stand in saucer at base of the plant. About once a month, wash dust from the leaves with warm water. Dry in the shade.

There are special fertilizers and insecticides for African Violets. Feed sparingly to promote color and size of blooms and foliage growth. To control aphis and mealy bug, spray at three-month intervals.

More than 4000 varieties of saintpaulias, are divided into four blossom types: singles, doubles, ruffles and puffs. Sizes runs from small miniatures, to amazons, with leaves over four inches long. You can find all flower colors, except yellow, and many leaf variations, such as the "girl" type, which has a light spot at the base. Some examples of the latter are the double white Madonna, red Double Velvet Girl and the single blue Bright Angel. Two fine red singles are Robin Hood and Ruffled Queen. Doubles that bloom well are Pink Cloud, Ne Plus Ultra and Blue Peak, whose petals have white margins. An etherial ruffled single is Nightingale.

Should you "get the bug" for African Violets, moderation is the watchword. A few well-located, well-chosen specimens will add more beauty, with less work, than a "front-room hothouse." Don't make work of your hobby, be discriminating. Have fun.

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den, which he replanted at intervals of years with whatever plant family he was devoting himself to.

Nature study was another movement stimulated by his contagious and dynamic enthusiasm.

His magnificent physique made possible thirty-nine years as a traveller and plant collector. On his 90th birthday he was in the jungles of the West Indies in search of rare plants and palms. His trips only terminated when a broken thigh crippled him at the age of 91, and forced him to cancel a trip to Africa.

It was Christmas night, 1954. Having given all his gifts to the world, and to himself, a career, which he said, "has been a continuous fulfillment of my dreams," Liberty Hyde Bailey departed this life in his 97th year.

Behind the By-Lines

Overnight, subdivisions change our mesas into suburbs. Observe the gracious green settings around new schools and give thanks for the head and hands that plan these fine landscapes. With a true art sense and a sure horticultural knowledge, Jane Minshall squeezes every pennyworth of plant and tree beauty from the necessarily small sum allotted for her department. She takes a Christmas postman's holiday to write about African flora in this issue. Want to go on a Plant Safari to Africa?

J. O. Davis, a San Diego man who has made his mark with African Violets, finds the production line in a quiet glasshouse, a pleasant contrast to one in a noisy aircraft plant during the war.

We suspect that Dr. Roberts' great admiration for Kate Sessions helped to inspire the community of Pacific Beach to establish the Memorial Park that was dedicated on her hundredth birthday anniversary. The ceremonies were appropriate and impressive.

We welcome Dorothy Behrends, a newcomer to these pages, and to the region of Encinitas, where she lives. A former editor of THE BEGONIAN, she is also in demand as a speaker on Bromeliads and other plant families. In covering horticultural news for her local journal, she ran across this timely story on the production of macadamia nuts.

There must be something in the name, "Miller", that brings out camellias in the garden. Those who have seen the prize-winning camellias around the Stanley Miller home in El Cajon, will be glad to learn how they also succeed with azaleas.

Dr. Willis Miller is president of the S. D. Camellia Society, and E. W. (Doc) Miller, of Solana Beach, has held the same office. You won't go wrong in camellia culture if you follow his directions.

Leaves From An Observer's Notebook

Marion Almy Lippitt

The clock struck twelve—midnight! It was Christmas Eve, and the only lights in the living room were from the colored bulbs on the Christmas tree. According to tradition, Henry and I were winding up the night before Christmas with a quiet moment of leisurely conversation. Believe me, we needed it!

Our silences were accompanied by the occasional scamper of feet across the floor upstairs, followed by suppressed giggles. Finally when silence was mutual, from the comfort of his armchair by the fire, Henry gazed at the lighted star atop the Christmas tree.

"What does the star mean to you?" he asked.

"The promise of hope—and peace on earth," I answered promptly.

Henry nodded agreement and continued to gaze at the star. Or was it the tree? This year, as usual, we had the joy of cutting a tree from our own hillside in the mountains. Years ago we had started a small forestry project—for every tree we cut we planted three. Our effort was to teach the children the value and practicality of conservation. Now we had reached the place where we could follow the advice of an old woodsman:

"Woodlots need thinn',—same as t'other crops."

San Diego's back country has a wide variety of trees. Among them are stately Jeffrey and Coulter pines, dignified incense cedars, and deciduous black oaks whose spring growth makes the tree a giant pink bouquet. The majestic sycamores contribute their glorious gold in the autumn and all of these are backgrounded by California's unique live oaks, of which there are ten different species.

Our Christmas tree, however, was a white fir sometimes wrongly called silver fir. Its symmetry and conical shape, standing between five and six feet tall, recommended itself to us for the season's festivities. Now, in its noble Christmas splendor it seemed the epitome of gaiety and innocent fun. I looked at it with affection.

"This is it's big moment," I said. "It celebrates the Savior's birth. It contributes to the joy of the young. It helps to maintain the nation's backbone—the American home. It has not lived in vain!"

Henry sniffed the tangy, pungent fragrance, and before I could ask him what the star meant to him, he said, "Tonight we have burned the equivalent of a tree's six-year growth in our fireplace. The question is—has our time been equivalently well spent?"

Smelling a rat, I pounced: "That observation is not original with you!"

"With whom, then?" queried Henry, hoping, I suspect, to increase my humility by revealing my ignorance.

"Henry David Thoreau, I think," I answered quickly.

"Friend, thou hast just won thyself 4,000 dollars. Shall we proceed to the 8,000 dollar question?"

"Please proceed!"

"Where in Henry David Thoreau's writings does one find the paragraph about wood in a fireplace?"

Defeated, I had to acknowledge my ignorance. So Henry pointed to Edward Way Teale's "Circle of the Season" on the shelf of Nature books. I handed it to him. He opened to a place already suspiciously bookmarked for a trap, and read the following from a letter Thoreau had written to his friend, Harrison Blake in Worcester, Massachusetts.

"I have just put another stick into my stove—a pretty large mass of white oak. How many men will do enough this cold winter to pay for the fuel that will

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be required to warm them? I suppose I burned up a pretty good sized tree tonight—and for what? I settled with Mr. Tarbell the other day, but that was not the final settlement. I got off cheaply with him. At last One will say, 'Let us see, how much did you burn, Sir?' and I shall shudder to think what the next question will be, 'What did you do while you were warm?' "

"Undoubtedly Mr. Thoreau has a point," I acquiesced, "but I contend that this Christmas tree has fulfilled its destiny. Remember he also said, "The spruce, the hemlock, and the pine will not countenance despair. This tree has joined us singing in its own way:

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King."

Henry did not seem inclined to pursue the subject, and so I seized the opportunity to ask him: "And now, what does the star say to you?"

"It speaks to me of - - the means - - by which peace is achieved, namely 'Good will on earth to men!' "

"And how is good will on earth to men achieved?"

Henry shifted his position uneasily. "I guess it's done by seeing man as God sees him."

"And how does God see him?" I persisted.

Henry bent forward and said quietly, "That is the Priceless question. I hope you are satisfied."

"Amen," I replied, and added the English translation, "So be it."

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THE INCENSE CEDAR

C. I. Jerabek

The San Diego Tree Man

Libocedrus decurrens, (*libas,* drop, and *cedrus,* resinous character), is commonly called Incense-cedar, for the fragrance of its wood. It belongs to the Cypress family but, because of its similarity to the White-cedar and the Giant Arborvitae, it is sometimes known by those names. Native to the mountains from southern Oregon to southern California, and western Nevada, the Incense-cedar is found in our own Cuyamaca Mountains. It was discovered by Fremont, on the south fork of the American River, in 1846.

This very handsome evergreen is usually columnar, with a tendency to spread in later years. The erect or short-spreading branches have sprays of flattened foliage, covered with small scale-like leaves, which are a dark glossy green on both sides. The thick, cinnamon-red bark is deeply furrowed, especially in older trees. The very small cones are also of brownish color, and when open, resemble a duck's bill.

This cedar requires less room than most conifers, so it is suitable for locations where other types would be inadmissable. Slow-growing at first, it can reach well above 50 feet.

Incense-cedar branchlets are excellent to use for wreaths and other decorations, where the pungent, woodsy fragrance can be enjoyed.

Begin your inspection of Incense-cedars in San Diego with a few very good single specimens at: 4821 A St., 2335 Front, 4230 Arguello and 4155 Palmetto Way. Others in Missions Hills are: two each at 1845 Ft. Stockton Dr., and 4310 Avalon Dr., one at 4375 Trias, and at 1219 Lewis St., and an old tree at 4204 Randolph. 1441 Robinson and 2740 Nutmeg Pl. have singles and there are two near the S.E. cor, of 5th. and Juniper, in Balboa Park.

In Pacific Beach, three were noted at 3621 Jewell, 3569 Promontory, 3616 Crown Pt. Dr.

Loma Portal has four at 3243 Xenophon, one at 2860 Chatsworth Blvd., and young ones at 3361 Wisteria Dr. See 2904 and 2914 Talbot St., and 3362 Lucinda, in La Playa.

In Logan Hts., Incense-cedars are used as street trees at 3241 Clay Ave. There are three at 2654 L St., two at 515 Dewey St., and one each at 2266 Ocean View Blvd., 2155 Evans and 3122 L St.

There is a sample at 1812 29th St. In North Park look for 3683 Nile, 3761 Arnold, two at 3660 28th St., and singles at 1204 Lincoln, 4133 Maryland and the S.W. cor. Kansas and Lincoln. Three at 4385-4295 Proctor Pl.

Kensington Dist. has: two at 4551 Vista St., 5192 E. Bedford Dr., 4616 Terrace Dr., and 5302 E. Palisades Rd., plus one at 3795 Highland, and one at 4264 46th. St., in East San Diego.

In College Hts., see these conifers: 4855 Atlanta Dr., 4764 56th., 4739 Redland Dr., and 4615 Hinson Pl. For an Incense-cedar in La Mesa, go to 4754 Lenore.

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Garden Chores

By Ada Perry

Some one said, "Why don't you write about your garden class in your next article for the California Garden?" I thought it over and thought it was a good idea. I learn so much from my garden class.

Incidentally, Walter Andersen and I cannot make up our minds whether it is my garden class or his. He started it, that I know. It is free, it is every Thursday morning at 10:30, and we meet in his nursery under the Rubber Tree Pergola, or in the Palm House, or the small fertilizer storeroom! This last is a cozy den where all the 5 to 25 pounders are shelved, and on a rainy morning there is real satisfaction in reading analyses and drooling over what to put on those flowers after this rain. Of course we talk about other things on rainy mornings, just like we do on sunny mornings in either of the outdoor locations. Current planting advice is handed out by me along with coffee. Then we branch out into interesting plants and garden articles, and end up with questions from every one and identifications of bugs, diseases and just plain what-is-its.

So, when you see the ad in the paper about Ada Perry's Garden Class, you'll know that Walter "Mr. Nurseryman" Andersen started the whole idea and requested that I should do the honors. And would you tell your new home-owner acquaintances about it, or the new-comers to the thoroughly satisfying hobby of gardening, and come yourself now and then or every time. We have such a "Good Group" and we learn things from each other. There is the lady whose dichondra was short and scorched in her windy, sunny front yard. We talked it over and a good coat of peat moss plus a solid chemical analysis fertilizer with insecticide, made that dichondra look exactly like it is supposed to look. And then there's the lady who raises a delirious quantity of gerberas for cut flowers in the house, simply by planting them high enough to show a half inch of root all around. "Gerberas, pupils, are available bare root now, just like roses, peaches, apricots and figs."

Then there's another lady who found that a product called Tersan really did check the fungus in her new lawn this summer. And the lady who persisted until she found the colored foliage in small trees she wanted—the new *Eucalyptus perriniana,* with completely circling leaves, (around the stem) and a fine powdery silver in color, and the new Krauters purple-leaf plum, which is purple down to its hide, I mean bark.

I think we'd better say more about bare roots, as this is the time. And it's the custom in this column to remind you to remind your new neighbors that if they want a black mission fig or some such bare-root, they must shop for it in January and the sooner the better. There never are enough Black Missions to go around, seems to me. And I had a delicious reminder of the reason this morning—nice black figs for the Cheerios and milk. This is the fig that has three crops, we Californians like to say. It's also the fig you don't have to prune. In fact, you definitely don't.

Dormant spraying goes on apace this time of year and I think we all had enough bugs this summer to insure a lively interest in the demise of as many as possible over the winter. You're right, there are so many kinds of sprays. But that means that your favorite line has some way of solving the dormant spray problem. This is the thing to remember—if it sheds its leaves, you use *dormant or winter strength.* If it doesn't shed its leaves, you use *foliage or summer strength.*

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Opportunity Knocks

The University of California, Extension Division, offers an 18-week course in Plant Propagation, each Thursday, 2-4:30 and 7-9:30 p.m., from Feb. 13, through June 12, in Bungalow A, Roosevelt Jr. High School. These classes deal with practical plant propagation, for those who want to grow or graft their own material.

The instructor, Charles F. Swingle, spent nearly 30 years in plant exploration, introduction and propagation for the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. In 1928 he introduced Kalanchoes and other ornamentals from Madagascar. He was also in charge of an experimental plant station in the Amazon jungle of Peru. Dr. Swingle is now living in Puama Valley, where he has a nursery featuring unusual plants.

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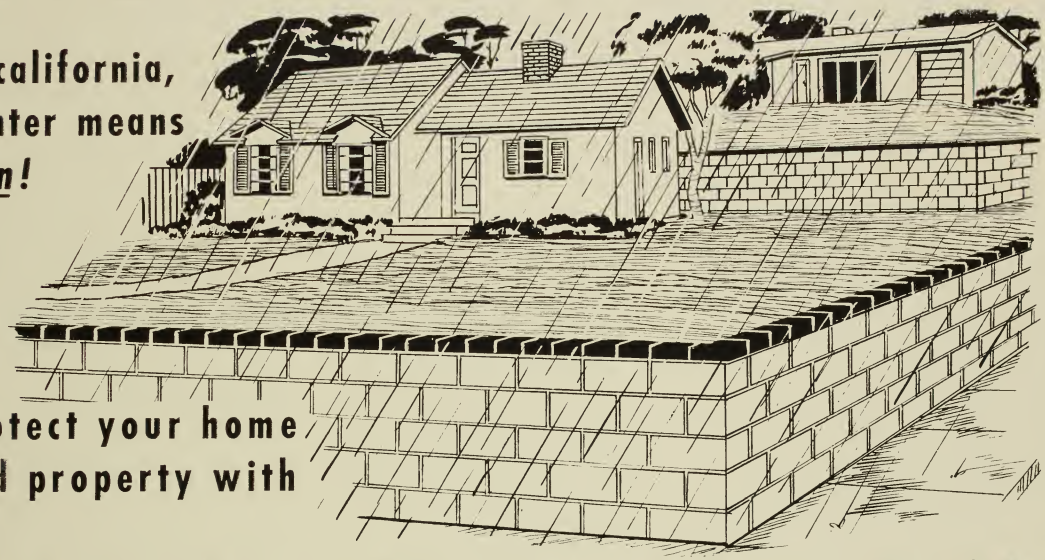

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